

VII. WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

Claim 1. A transport system comprising:

A self-propelled transport assembly, and

controlling means to raise and lower motive components to facilitate different modes of operation.

Claim 2. A transport system according to claim 1 wherein said raising and lowering means comprise a system of air compressors and pneumatic lift devices.

Claim 3. A transport system according to claim 2 wherein said air compressors provide sufficiently pressurized air to activate said pneumatic lift devices via a system of pneumatic plumbing and an air reservoir.

Claim 4. A transport system according to claim 3 wherein said motive components comprise unpowered casters and at least two powered drive units.

Claim 5. A transport system assembly according to claim 4 wherein said unpowered casters are lowered by means of said pneumatic lift devices to allow manual positioning.

Claim 6. A transport system according to claim 5 wherein each said powered drive unit comprises a variable speed reversible electric motor, a drive chain, an axle, and a wheel.

Claim 7. A transport system comprising according to claim 2 wherein said air compressors are powered by an electrical system comprising a battery, a battery charger, and battery charger controls and indicators.

Claim 8. A transport system comprising according to claim 6 wherein said drive units are powered by an electrical system comprising a rechargeable battery, charging means, controls and indicators.

Claim 9. A transport system comprising according to claim 8 wherein said charging means comprises a battery charger and a cord reel which may be plugged into an electrical outlet.

Claim 10. A transport system according to claim 1 wherein said controlling means allow the user to properly control the battery charger.

Claim 11. A transport system according to claim 10 wherein said controlling means comprise a joystick assembly having control means to control the speed, direction, forward and reverse motion of the unit.

Claim 12. A transport system according to claim 10 wherein said controlling means also comprises an electronics cabinet control panel having means to energize electrical power to the unit, connect said joystick, protect electrical circuitry, view battery charge status, and select mode of operation.

Claim 13. A transport system according to claim 5 wherein the user can select one of the following: unpowered casters for manual positioning; motorized wheels for powered transport; or treat position for medical device operation.

Claim 14. A transport system according to claim 13 including a selector switch which enables the user to select the desired mode of operation.